



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PHOENIX ATTORNEY INDICTED FOR LOOTING BANKRUPTCY ESTATES

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on May 14, 2003, a federal grand jury at Phoenix, Arizona, returned a five count indictment against attorney Robert A. Suzenski, D.O.B. April 27, 1947, of Phoenix, Arizona.

The indictment alleges that Mr. Suzenski, who practiced law under the firm name of Robert Suzenski, P.C., and between the dates of January 2001 and February 2003, engaged in a pattern of deception in his practice of representing debtors before the United States Bankruptcy Court, District of Arizona. Suzenski, as the attorney for the debtor, received funds into his trust account on behalf of the debtor(s) bankruptcy estate. These funds were placed with Suzenski with the sole purpose that they were to benefit the debtor(s) bankruptcy estate by, among other things, paying creditors claims and, in one circumstance, quarterly fees assessed by the United States Trustee. A large majority of these funds, exceeding \$150,000, however, were removed by Suzenski and placed into his personal account for his personal use.

The federal indictment charges Robert A. Suzenski with violating, as to Count 1: Title 18 of the United States Code, Section 641 (Embezzlement of Public Money); Counts 2-4: Title 18 United States Code,

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Section 153 (Embezzlement Against Estate); and Count 5: Title 18 United States Code, Section 152(8) (False Oaths and Claims).

A conviction for Embezzlement of Public Money carries a maximum penalty of 10 years prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Embezzlement Against Estate carries a maximum penalty of 5 years prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for False Oaths and Claims carries a maximum penalty of 5 years prison, a \$250,000 fine or both.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the office of the United States Trustee.

The prosecution is being handled by Howard D. Sukenic, Assistant United States Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix, Arizona.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-502-PHX
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-091

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